

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: POWELL PLAYS ORANGE CARD

SUMMARY: ENOCH POWELL APRIL 18 TALKED PRIVATELY WITH LOYALIST LEADERS AND GAVE PUBLIC SPEECH TO LARGE CROWD AT ULSTER HALL IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR FULL NI REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER AND UNEQUIVOCAL HMG STATEMENT THAT NI WOULD REMAIN PART OF UK. SPEECH FINESSED APPARENT UNIONIST DIFFERENCES ON CONCEPTS OF TOTAL INTEGRATION WITHIN UK AND RESTORATION OF STORMONT AND REACTION OF CROWD LEFT NO DOUBT OF POWELL'S POPULAR APPEAL TO LOYALISTS. THERE IS INTENSE SPECULATION THAT POWELL WILL STAND FOR ULSTER IMPERIAL CONSTITUENCY AT BY-ELECTION OR NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY

1. IN SPEECH POWELL PRAISED UNIONIST WESTMINSTER MPS WHO HAD OPPOSED NI POLICIES OF PREVIOUS TORY GOVERNMENT AS HE HAS DONE IN PREVIOUS VISITS TO ULSTER HE ARGUED THAT AMBIGUITY ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF NI HAS ENCOURAGED REPUBLICAN VIOLENCE CLEAR HMG DECLARATION THAT NI WOULD REMAIN PART OF UK WOULD DEPRIVE REPUBLICANS OF HOPE WHICH SUSTAINS THEIR VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT RESTORATION OF STORMONT AND LITTLE ABOUT TOTAL INTEGRATION (ISSUE ON WHICH HE WAS THOUGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DIFFER WITH UNIONISTS) BUT URGED UNIONISTS TO DEMAND FULL

REPRESENTATION (18-20 MPS) AT WESTMINSTER. THIS WOULD LIBERATE ULSTER POLITICS FROM ITS PROVINCIALITY AND PREOCCUPATION WITH BORDER ISSUE "HENCEFORTH NO HORIZON NEED BE TOO WIDE. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE CONSTITUENCIES OF ULSTER WILL SEE THOSE WHO REPRESENT THEM CHOSEN AMONG THE REST WITHOUT REGARD TO CREED OR CLASS TO GOVERN AND TO LEAD THE BRITISH NATION."

2. QUESTION WHETHER POWELL WOULD STAND AS UNIONIST MP CANDIDATE PROVOKED SEVERAL MINUTES STANDING OVATION AND RECEIVED DELPHIC RESPONSE WHICH PERCEIVED AS POSITIVE PROVOKED YET ANOTHER OUTBURST OF LOYALIST JOY.

3. ALL THREE UNITED UNIONIST LEADERS -- WEST, PAISLEY AND CRAIG -- WELCOMED PROSPECT THAT POWELL WOULD STAND FOR ULSTER CONSTITUENCY. THERE IS TALK POWELL MIGHT CONTEST DOWN SOUTH IN BY-ELECTION OR SOME OTHER ULSTER SEAT IN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION.

4. COMMENT: POWELL'S SPEECH APPEARS TO HAVE FINESSED ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND LOYALISTS ON "TOTAL INTEGRATION" VS RESTORATION OF STORMONT, WHILE REACTION OF LOYALIST FAITHFUL TO SPEECH LEFT LOYALIST LEADERS IN NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS POPULAR APPEAL HERE. ULSTER LOYALISTS SEE POWELL AS SYMPATHISER AND FRIEND OF THEIR CAUSE WHO COULD BE A GREAT ASSET AS THEIR CHAMPION AT WESTMINSTER. NONETHELESS ONE MAY WELL QUARREL WITH POWELL'S ARGUMENT THAT INCREASE IN WESTMINSTER REPRESENTATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY BRITISH OR IF ACCEPTED WOULD LEAD TO END OF REPUBLICAN VIOLENCE AND ULSTER POLITICAL PROVINCIALISM. END COMMENT.
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